

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-31 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 19 were independent. In the Final Office Action dated September 15, 2004, Claims 19-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Claims 30-31 were objected to, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and Claims 1-18 were allowed. Following this response, Claims 1-30 remain in this application with Claims 1, 19, and 30 being independent and Claim 31 being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant hereby addresses the Examiner's rejections in turn.

I. **Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

In the Final Office Action dated September 15, 2004, the Examiner rejected Claims 19-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,753,985 ("Redlich") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,514,224 ("Panchanathan"). Claim 19 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowed Claim 31, and Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment overcomes this rejection of Claim 19 and adds no new matter. Allowed and formerly dependent Claim 30 has been rewritten in independent form including the subject matter of its base claim, Claim 19. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass Claim 30 to issue. Claim 31 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Dependent Claims 20-29 are also allowable at least for the reasons above regarding independent Claim 19, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 19. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 20-29.

II. Allowance of Claims

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass Claims 1-18 to issue.

III. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment After Final be entered by the Examiner, placing the claims in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed amendments of the claims do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Finally, Applicant respectfully submits that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the entry of

this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims, as amended, are patentable over the cited references. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Official Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Official Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this amendment and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By:


D. Kent Stier
Reg. No. 50,640
(404) 653-6559